THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PROMAD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Telephone facility is already available in Harara, Tolyon, Machhor and Bhonkhal villages of Uttaranchal state. The remaining two villages, Pinakot and Bor, could not be provided telecom facility as these two villages are located at a distance from the nearest telephone exchange at machhor and it is not possible to provide telephone on cable. However, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system has been planned at Machhor and most of the remaining villages around Machhor, within line of sight range of 25 km. including Pinakot and Bor, are likely to be covered with telecom facility by June, 2002. In Talla Salt area WLL system at Machhor is planned for providing Village Public Telephones and rural telephone connections. Faulty MARR based VPTs falling in the coverage area of WLL system are also planned to be replaced. There is a plan to lay 350 route km. optical fibre cable in Almora district.

Loss of Foodgrains due to Inadequate Storage

*630. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that considerable quantity of foodgrains is lost due to lack of proper storage facilities;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment of the losses of foodgrains in this manner;

(c) whether Government have undertaken any programe for construction of storage facilities for foodgrains in the country; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the number of storage facilities constructed during the last three years, year-wise, in each of the State/Union Territories and the cost involved in construction of each storage facility capacity-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Foodgraifis procured by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) are stored on scientific lines. However, some storage losses occur, *inter-alia,* due to loss of moisture, multiple handling, spillage and lorfg storage.

According to information received from FCI, the storage losses during thejzferiod 1998-99 to 2000-01 were as follows:

Year	Quantity of loss (in lakh MT) *(Provisional*
1998-99	1.51
1999-2000	1.60
2000-01	2.24 .

(c) and (d) FCI has a Plan scheme of construction of godowns. The storage capacity.constructed by FCI during the last three years and the expenditure incurred thereon is indicated in the Statement I (See below).

FCI proposes to construct 1,36,570 MT storage capacity during the current financial year, i.e. 2002-03. State-wise details are given in Statement-II (See below).

FCI has also in the recent past given 7 years guarantee for the construction of covered storage capacity of 85.32 lakh MT in various States out of which 20.51 lakh MT storage capacity has already been released. Details in this regard are given in Statement-Ill.

Statement-I

State-wise Storage Capacity Constructed by FCI During last Three Years 1999-2000; 2000-2001 and 2001 -2002 and Expenditure Incurred

Capacity in tones *Expenditure in lakhs Rs.*

SI. No.	Name of the State	Capacity constructed during			Expenditure incurred
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	60,000	1,000.02
2.	Bihar	840	—	—	84,75
3.	Gujarat	10,000	—	10,000	340.44
4.	Haryana	10,000	—	—	121.32
5.	Karnataka	5,000	28,340	21,660	1,223.90
6.	Kerala	—	—	30,000	756.87
7.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	5,000	72.90
8.	Maharashtra	5,000	—	—	236.17
9.	Meghalaya	—	3,750	—	203.29
10.	Nagaland	10,000	—	—	501.28
11.	Orissa	3,340	6,660	—	221.65
12.	Punjab	33,360	—	15,000	570.51
13.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	10,000	214.81
14.	Tripura	—	—	5,000	214.71
15.	Uttar Pradesh	5,000	—	—	220.68
16.	J&K	1,670	—	—	220.68
	TOTAL:	84,210	38,750	1,61,660	6,269.65

Statement-II

State-wise construction programme of storage capacity by FCI during the year 2002-03

In Metric tonnes

SI. No.	Name of the State	Storage Capacity target
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40,000
2.	Gujarat	15,000
3.	Haryana	15,000
4.	J & K	5,000
5.	Karnataka	7,970
6.	Maharashtra	18,600
7.	Manipur	2,500
'8.	Punjab	10,000
9.	Rajasthan	15,000
10.	Tamil Nadu	5,000
11.	Sikkim	2,500
	TOTAL:	1,36,570

Statement-Ill

Details of the storage capacity proposed to be created by the state agencies under FCI's 7years guaranteed utilisation scheme

{Fig. In lakh MT)

	Name of the State	Covered capacity proposed to be created
	Punjab	41.60
	Haryana	09.00
	Andhra Pradesh	21.22
	Uttar Pradesh	08.00
	Uttaranchal	0.50
	Orissa	2.50
	Chhattisgarh	2.50
	TQTAL:	85.32